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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system to create and maintain a gas/vapor cavity about a hull surface includes a fence selectively extendable above and below the hull surface. A gas venting means is positioned beneath the hull surface downstream from the fence. The vented gas can be used to create a gas/vapor cavity downstream from said fence and cover the hull surface. A heat source is also positioned downstream from the fence and beneath the hull surface. The heat source is capable of heating the hull surface to create or maintain the gas/vapor cavity on the hull surface. A sensor and controller can also be provided to control the cavity.

14 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 114/67 A: 102/399

(58) **Field of Search** 114/67 A; 102/399

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